

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 1900 - HB 1974**

March 7, 2022

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Makes changes to maximum staffing levels in the Department of Children's Services (DCS), such that caseloads for case managers must not exceed an average of:

- 12 active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect;
- 12 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing in-home services; or
- 13 children in active cases in which the children are in out-of-home placements relating to ongoing services.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$16,107,500/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years**

**Increase Federal Expenditures - \$13,059,200/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-5-132, DCS is currently required to comply with the maximum caseload ratios not to exceed an average of 20 active cases relating to initial assessments, including investigations of an allegation of child abuse or neglect or 20 children monitored and supervised in active cases relating to ongoing services.
- According to information provided by DCS, there are currently 15,443 active assessments and investigations, 3,787 active cases relating to ongoing in-home services, and 8,866 active cases in which the children are in out-of-home placements.
- There are currently 1,872 case managers who can be assigned to cases. Based on information provided by the DCS, one team leader is required for every five case managers, and one team coordinator for every five team leaders.
- To effectuate the provisions of this legislation, DCS will require 410 additional case managers, 82 team leaders (410 case managers / 5 case managers per team leader), and 17 team coordinators (82 team leaders / 5 team leaders per team coordinator) to comply with the required staffing levels.
- The increase in expenditures associated with the additional positions is estimated to be \$29,166,718 (\$21,988,800 salaries + \$7,177,918 benefits) in FY22-23 and subsequent years.

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- The recurring increase in expenditures of \$29,166,718 will consist of \$16,107,539 in state funding and \$13,059,179 in federal funding, as follows:
  - \$11,666,687 in DCS state funds ( $\$29,166,718 \times 40.0\%$ ).
  - \$4,440,852 in TennCare state funds [ $(\$29,166,718 \times 45.0\%) \times 33.835\%$ ].
  - \$8,684,171 in TennCare federal funds [ $(\$29,166,718 \times 45.0\%) \times 66.165\%$ ].
  - \$4,375,008 in Title IV-E federal funds ( $\$29,166,718 \times 15.0\%$ ).

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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